



Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

2023 Report to Our Community

Lifting Voices for Change



Supporting Eastern Connecticut communities for 40 years

Board of Trustees

Margaret O'Shea, *Chair*
 Nicholas Fortson, *Vice Chair*
 Sandra Hale, *Treasurer*
 Carol Williams, *Secretary*
 Joe DeLong
 Lee-Ann Gomes
 Leah Hartman
 Izaskun Larrañeta
 Catherine Marrison
 Michael Rauh
 Barbara Sahagan
 Leah Schad
 Morgan Tuck
 Maryam Elahi, *Ex Officio*

Staff

Maryam Elahi <i>President & CEO</i>	Pam Mola <i>Communications Officer</i>
Megan Brown <i>Vice President</i>	Jennifer O'Brien <i>Program Director</i>
Deb Battit <i>Program Officer</i>	Lauren C. Parda <i>Director of Development</i>
Jackie Law <i>Systems and Donor Relations Officer</i>	Demetria Young <i>Office Manager</i>
Lauren Lyons <i>Program Officer</i>	

VISION

A healthy, thriving, sustainable Eastern Connecticut with greater equity for all.

MISSION

Collaborating with partners to put philanthropy into action to address the needs, rights and interests of our community in Eastern Connecticut.

VALUES

Integrity, Equity, Respect, Courage, Empathy



A grant to Connecticut College's Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy supported community building and enrichment opportunities through the Genesis Mentoring Program. [photo provided by Connecticut College]

Lifting Voices for Change

Throughout Eastern Connecticut, people are working together to create a more thriving and equitable region. Our teachers, nonprofit leaders, municipal and health workers, philanthropists and community members are reaching out to one another to learn, act and advocate with one voice.

In these pages, you'll meet some of our region's change agents — the advocates, igniters, builders, organizers, activists, transformers and catalysts in our midst.

With a boost from Community Foundation grants, the generosity of our donors, and a willingness to convene and partner, they are creating positive change across our region. We are delighted to lift their voices and their work.

As your community foundation, we are advocates and funders for systems change to create an Eastern Connecticut in which every child, individual and family thrives and can access greater opportunities to reach their full potential.

As a result of listening to you and seeing the needs in our region, we established two new funds in 2023 to elevate racial justice and open doors to better futures for children and youth. We convened our partners to lead a campaign to end child poverty. And, we spoke with one voice to address inequities and pave a path toward solutions to other community concerns including affordable housing, job skills for youth and food security.

We are deeply grateful to our collaborators, and we are proud to partner with hundreds more nonprofits, donors and public officials like them.

Here's to the change makers. Our communities are better because of them.



Maryam Elahi
President & CEO



Margaret M. O'Shea
Chair, Board of Trustees

From Solidarity to Action: The Campaign to End Child Poverty

Ending child poverty is the singular goal of a diverse coalition of organizations brought together, in part, by the Community Foundation. We believe every child deserves access to basic necessities, quality education and a nurturing environment that help them reach their full potential.

Our collective advocacy during the 2024 legislative session achieved:

► One policy success

Because workers shouldn't have to choose between lost wages or going to work while ill, we advocated for **expanding Connecticut's paid sick time** law, which until now only covered 12% of workers in our state. Lawmakers heeded our calls, and by 2027, paid sick time will be a nearly universal benefit.

► One policy step in the right direction

We urged lawmakers to fund **free school meals** for all Connecticut students, because well-nourished children have better learning outcomes. We got one step closer, as lawmakers voted to renew funding for free, healthy school breakfast and lunch meals for students hailing from families with lower incomes.

Our strength is in organizing and speaking out together around a common policy agenda aimed at a thriving Eastern Connecticut.

Every time a new organization joins our ranks (50 and counting!), our resolve and our political power grow. Coalition partners were among the many voices whose testimonies persuaded the Connecticut Legislature to act on free school meals and paid sick time.

[Learn more at cfect.org/EndChildPoverty](https://cfect.org/EndChildPoverty)



"ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households live in every city and town in Connecticut and are working hard, but not getting by. In 2021, 41% of Connecticut ALICE households with children experienced food insecurity...We don't question providing transportation or laptops to our children as part of their educational experience. It is time [Connecticut] joins our neighbors in Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont to make school meals essential, too."

— Daniel Fitzmaurice
United Way of Connecticut

"Connecticut is full of hardworking employees who deserve the basic right of 40 hours of paid sick and safe time a year."

— Tonishia Signore
She Leads Justice

"...a more comprehensive paid sick days law will provide a needed benefit for parents working across Connecticut, that will give them flexibility to take care of their children and loved ones and still remain a part of Connecticut's workforce. These policies ultimately contribute to a stronger state economy."

— Nick Teeling
Connecticut Voices for Children

In the Land of Steady Habits, New Ideas on Housing Affordability

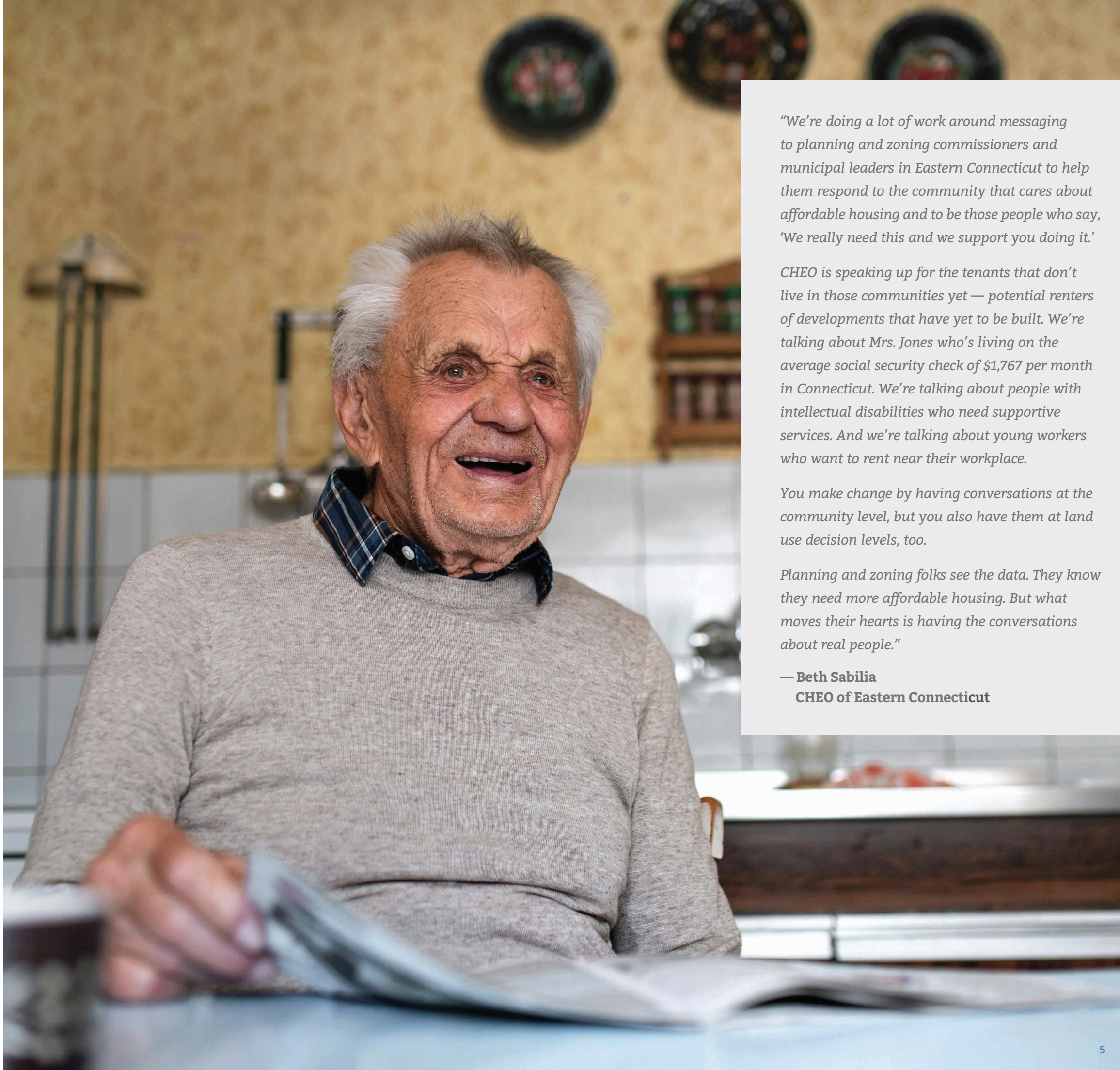
With its first birthday in the rearview mirror, the Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern Connecticut (CHEO) is actively connecting housing practitioners, municipalities and policymakers to address the housing affordability crisis in the region.

Led by its energetic director Beth Sabilia, an attorney, former mayor of New London and former Waterford selectwoman, CHEO is developing a vibrant and robust idea-sharing, self-led network of regional housing practitioners.

Sabilia sees it as an invaluable resource — a diverse group of people who meet regularly, learn from each other, share stories of what's working in communities and develop more affordable housing options in the region.

CHEO is already convening planning and zoning members, helping them gain community support to put affordable housing ideas into action.

The Center for Housing Equity and Opportunity of Eastern Connecticut is a strategic partnership among seven nonprofits led by the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut. It includes Connecticut College, Eastern Connecticut State University, The Housing Collective, Partnership for Strong Communities, Regional Plan Association and the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut.



“We’re doing a lot of work around messaging to planning and zoning commissioners and municipal leaders in Eastern Connecticut to help them respond to the community that cares about affordable housing and to be those people who say, ‘We really need this and we support you doing it.’”

CHEO is speaking up for the tenants that don’t live in those communities yet — potential renters of developments that have yet to be built. We’re talking about Mrs. Jones who’s living on the average social security check of \$1,767 per month in Connecticut. We’re talking about people with intellectual disabilities who need supportive services. And we’re talking about young workers who want to rent near their workplace.

You make change by having conversations at the community level, but you also have them at land use decision levels, too.

Planning and zoning folks see the data. They know they need more affordable housing. But what moves their hearts is having the conversations about real people.”

— Beth Sabilia
CHEO of Eastern Connecticut



“Change takes courage, perseverance and the skills to break chains, overcome obstacles, and set goals...But the whole focus of our Leadership Academy is that these skills never expire. You’re going to need them as you journey through life.”

— Reeshemah Norfleet
Discovering Amistad

Discovering Amistad — and its Lessons for Young Leaders

The historic 1839 uprising by Africans held captive by slave hunters on the *Amistad* holds lessons for us all about the necessity for human beings to resist racial injustice and oppression of any kind.

Here in Connecticut, we are fortunate to have a traveling replica of the famous schooner, now used by the nonprofit, *Discovering Amistad*, as a floating classroom.

Greater Norwich high school students took part in *Discovering Amistad*’s 10-day Youth for Change Leadership Academy last summer. Drawing from the bravery and resourcefulness of the Africans on the *Amistad*, they learned how to become catalysts for change on issues in their own communities.

The students toured the *Amistad*, heard from business and community leaders and social

justice advocates, and learned about media literacy and fostering connections. Then they rolled up their sleeves to gather information on community problems relevant to their lives.

The young people designed solutions to address bullying, health, environmental biases, disparities and after-school programs, and learned the skills to create effective presentations.

One teen filmed some of the unsafe sidewalks in Norwich, including how they impact his walk to and from school. With coaching from the Leadership Academy about the workings of local government, the young man began the steps to get the sidewalks repaired, starting with a letter to his alderman.

The lessons of the *Amistad* persist — a testament to its enduring significance in our world.

A Community Foundation grant supported Discovering Amistad’s Youth for Change Leadership Academy, which partnered with Castle Church and Blooming Into Greatness for its Norwich youth program. [photo provided by Discovering Amistad]

Where Young Men Take Charge of their Futures

JonDez Silvan is a man on a mission.

As an intern at Our Piece of the Pie’s Eastern Connecticut youth center, you’ll find him teaching teens life skills such as how to dress for job interviews, the importance of hygiene, or how to conduct oneself in various social situations. Or maybe you’ll hear him playing the piano and drums. He dreams of a career in music therapy.

Moving from adolescence to adulthood is a difficult transition for many teens, especially for those who have experienced trauma or adverse childhood situations. JonDez was one of those boys.

He found his way to the Boys2Men program at Our Piece of the Pie (OPP), an organization helping youth to overcome barriers and to succeed in education and employment, particularly as other community supports fall away over time. It made all the difference for JonDez. In a speech at OPP’s annual event, he told his story. >>>

“OPP put me on my own feet as I took responsibility for my actions. I learned that working and saving money was on me.

After I started my internship, I completed the financial literacy course. In the past, I always spent money right after I got it. The course taught me to put money in my savings account so it can grow for my future. My next financial goal is to purchase a new car.

Since my return to OPP, I’ve been a leader in many ways. Their youth development specialists trusted me to lead a youth empowerment group that promotes civic involvement. It gave me the confidence to lead a Youth Advisory Board statewide meeting, where DCF-involved youth discuss and provide recommendations on youth issues.

OPP has brought me to places I would have never seen myself. I grew up here, in a sense. My experience has taught me essential life skills and changed me as a person...Now, I’m taking my time to plan my future education and career. I’m looking at a new apartment and planning to apply to Three Rivers Community College. Whatever opportunity awaits me, I know my OPP family will cheer me on.”

— JonDez Silvan
Our Piece of the Pie

JonDez Silvan, back row right of center, at Our Piece of the Pie’s annual event with OPP youth participants.

[photo provided by Our Piece of the Pie]





Grant recipients gathered to share their progress with the Social Equity Council and other community partners.

SOCIAL EQUITY COUNCIL GRANTS

In 2023, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut was one of six organizations in the state — and the only community foundation — to receive a \$1 million grant from the Connecticut Cannabis Social Equity Council (SEC). The goal: to implement a community reinvestment program focused on communities disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs in our region — New London, Norwich and Willimantic/Windham. Eighteen organizations received our grants. Meet two:

Reclaiming Dignity: The Power of Pardons

Each year, hundreds of people from all walks of life approach the [Connecticut Pardon Team](#), a Norwich-based nonprofit, for assistance navigating our state’s Absolute Pardon process. If a pardon is granted, one’s arrest record is completely erased — along with the stigma, fear and demoralizing aftermaths of mistakes people often deeply regret.

Connecticut residents are among tens of millions of Americans — disproportionately people of color — with criminal records. It’s a crisis that has exacerbated our nation’s racial inequality and reflects decades of over-policing of people of color.

The Pardon Team has encountered many desperate stories reflecting the crushing impact of arrest records. One person was turned away from an apartment at a senior housing complex due to an arrest years ago. Another was applying for a federal

“We’re an organization that doesn’t judge anyone.”

—**Connecticut Pardon Team**

job where the required background check included family members. The applicant was rejected due to her mother’s long-ago conviction.

The Pardon Team helps its clients submit their applications to Connecticut’s Board of Pardons and Paroles. The three-to-six-month Absolute Pardon process is no small undertaking, requiring references, probation letters and, often, a hearing. Individuals are eligible to apply three years after a misdemeanor conviction or five years after a felony conviction for state crimes.

Through a Community Foundation SEC grant, the Connecticut Pardon Team has been able to serve more people over 55 for whom income is a barrier to the complex pardon process. With a 98% success rate, the Pardon Team has created new paths to community re-entry, economic stability and full participation in society.

For many, a pardon is life-altering. One client, a Vietnam veteran in hospice care, said he could “die a free man,” after the State of Connecticut pardoned him for a crime he committed in his youth. He hadn’t wanted the stigma of an arrest on his record when he died.

Engaging Youth Explorers in Classrooms and Careers

During his 20 years in the University of Connecticut’s police department, Jason Hyland was the kind of officer with rubber chickens and hula hoops filling his workspace in the community outreach unit. After retirement, he sought another way to creatively nurture Eastern Connecticut youth on their paths to adulthood.

Hyland saw some of the challenges many of them faced: stressed mental health aggravated by the pandemic, isolation stemming from scarce transportation options, dwindling school attendance and family incomes.

As Hyland considered his next life chapter, he was reminded how much he benefited from “romping around the woods exploring,” camping and backpacking as a young person.

An idea took hold: In 2020, he founded [Project Imo](#), an adventure-based education organization focused on engaging young people in creating positive change in themselves and their communities.

It’s no wonder Project Imo now runs a Willimantic teen center called “Base Camp,” inspired by the

traditional base camps that provided explorers with supplies, shelter, communications and a place to connect. There, you’ll find rooms buzzing with young people aged 14-20. They drop in to explore devices like 3-D printers, podcasting equipment and video cameras to develop the skills needed for farms, advanced manufacturing and other regional businesses.

“It’s all youth-led,” Hyland proudly said.

Project Imo, with a boost from a Community Foundation SEC grant, also teamed with Windham Public Schools and North American Family Institute Connecticut (NAFI-CT) at the Phoenix Academy. Weaving together adventure activities and social-emotional learning, the educators helped students grow the soft skills required for successful employment.

Hyland sees results. He said, “Adventure-based learning is fun, it works, and youth become better prepared for life and the workforce — whether it’s college or trades or wherever they fit in.”

“What I see and hear from youth is that, if given the opportunity, they want to engage.”

—**Jason Hyland**
Project Imo



At Base Camp, Phoenix Academy youth explored advanced agriculture and food system processes by harvesting hydroponic greens. Later, at a local restaurant, they got a behind-the-scenes look at how to turn the greens into meals.

[photo provided by Project Imo]



Rochelle with her newly minted law degree, her husband, and daughter. Mother and daughter in 2024. [photos provided by Rochelle Duyan]

Community Foundation Scholarships Bridge Generations in the Duyan Family

When Waterford’s Rochelle Duyan began law school, her daughter Alexis was six years old. Rochelle never dreamed that one day Alexis would earn a college scholarship from the Community Foundation, as she had.

Now a rising junior at Eastern Connecticut State University, Alexis is pursuing a psychology degree, and Rochelle is a Mystic-based attorney specializing in probate administration and estate planning.

Rochelle is no stranger to perseverance. During her high school years, she juggled studies and three jobs while facing the emotional toll of her mother’s cancer diagnosis (a struggle her mother overcame).

She and her husband hail from first-generation immigrant families that had to figure out the systems and rules in their new country. Yet, Rochelle is astounded at the greater challenges facing today’s youth, especially rising college tuition costs.

“It’s staggering — and scary — to see what young people face now,” Rochelle said. “They are incurring so much debt to pay for college, and there’s no guarantee they can find jobs to earn enough money to live on their own and repay their debts.”

“The donors are amazing. I would not be sitting here if it wasn’t for the college scholarships I received.”

— Rochelle Duyan

Rochelle’s admiration for the younger generation deepened during her time serving on the Community Foundation’s scholarship committee. “Reading these applications, I thought, ‘Wow! You do so much. When do you have time to do anything but gear yourself up for the college application process and make sure you can compete for scholarships and get into college?’”

Rochelle is grateful for the support from the Community Foundation’s scholarship donors, whose generosity has lightened the financial burden for her family. **The Rose and Abraham Lubchansky Scholarship** supported Rochelle’s pursuit of a college degree; now, Alexis benefits from the **Waterford Scholars Fund**.

The Duyans are a testament to hard work, resilience and the enduring impact of community support.

Join us in supporting the Fund for Racial Justice and the Brighter Futures Fund to help us reach our fundraising goal of \$1 million for each fund by the end of 2024!

With your support, we can begin making grants in 2025. We are grateful to all donors who have contributed to these funds to date. The lists below recognize gifts of \$10,000 and above.

Fund for Racial Justice: \$697,963 raised to date

The Fund aims to increase education and awareness of racial inequities, work towards solutions that build greater understanding, and move the needle towards racial equity and justice in Eastern Connecticut.

Benefactor \$100,000+

Anonymous

Ambassador \$50,000+

Anonymous

Mary & John LaMattina

Visionary \$25,000+

Kathy & Ted Parker

Pioneer \$10,000+

Sarah Kelly & Kenneth Sigel

Lin & Waldo Klein

Margaret & Daniel O’Shea

Barbara Sahagan

Brighter Futures Fund: \$637,680 raised to date

The Fund will advance equitable outcomes to improve the lives of children and youth throughout Eastern Connecticut and create a better future for the next generation.

Benefactor \$100,000+

Anonymous (2)

Ambassador \$50,000+

Mary & John LaMattina

Gordon Murphy

Visionary \$25,000+

Kathy & Ted Parker

Pioneer \$10,000+

Rebecca & Frederick Crosby

Catherine & Elwood Davis

Martha Gibson

Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation

Kitchings Family Foundation

Montauk Foundation

Heidi & John Niblack

Barbara Sahagan

Karen Stone & David Schulz

Shearman Foundation

The GDL Foundation/Northeast Financial

The Roxanne and Henry Brandt

Foundation

Supported by a Community Foundation grant, Futuro Media trained Mitchell College students in podcast development and production, starting with their communities and personal experiences. Afterwards, students joined host Julio Ricardo Varela live on the Latino Radio network to discuss how colleges like Mitchell are creating more welcoming, accessible living and learning environments in a world that’s becoming more diverse.



LEGACY SOCIETY

**In Her Own Words:
Rose Jones**

Rose Jones touched many lives while residing in Eastern Connecticut. She served as a Montville Town Councilwoman, raised three kids, volunteered as a court-appointed special advocate for children, and served two terms on the Community Foundation’s board. She retired as a warden after a 22-year career in Connecticut’s Department of Corrections.

Through a bequest in her will, she established the **Rosetta E. Jones Scholarship Fund** at the Community Foundation to benefit young people after her lifetime.



Post-retirement, Rose has embraced new adventures — including sky diving — to celebrate her birthday and to raise awareness for breast cancer. [photo provided by Rose Jones]

“I want the scholarship to provide resources for students, some of whom may come from difficult backgrounds. And, because of the struggles created by racial biases, access to equal opportunities is often lacking.

I want to give students the tools to pursue their dreams, whether it be two or four years of college, vocational training, or any additional education and training that’s going to help them move their lives forward to become self-sustaining, productive, and happy. Because when a dream gets big enough, the odds don’t matter. And that’s what I want for these young people.

As the child of a teen mother, I have a profound understanding of what it’s like to be poor, to be passed over by family and society, and the herculean struggle required to break through all that.

I also believe that none of us are the worst thing we’ve ever done.

My goal is to uplift others similar to myself. I want to break the cycle of generational poverty and the trauma that accompanies that.”

— Rose Jones

The Legacy Society: Sustaining Generations to Come

The Legacy Society honors people who have included the Community Foundation in their estate plans. Through bequests, charitable trusts, gift annuities, retirement plans, or life insurance, they plan to make gifts to causes important to them after their lifetimes. We are deeply grateful to every member of the Legacy Society for the care and compassion they put into action through their future gifts.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Barbara Agosin | Kathleen & Kerry Hertenstein | Avery & Robert* Morgan | Mary Soriano |
| Mary Jean Agostini | Susan M. and Mark A. Hibbard | Kathleen Moriarty | Ellen & Daniel Spring |
| Pam Akins & Barry Levinson | Nancy Hileman | Terri & James Muren | Donna & C. William Stamm |
| Claire & Anthony Alessi | Muriel Hinkle | Nelly Murstein | Anita Steendam & Harold Fink |
| Jay Allen | Gerald Holland | Arthur Nagel | June D. Strunk |
| Judith & David* Anderson | Judith Hyde | Heidi & John Niblack | Mr. & Mrs. Martin Sullivan |
| Lauren E. Anderson | Rosetta Jones | Patricia & Paul Nunes | Lee Ellen & Tom Terry |
| Lois & Glenn Andrews | Carolyn & James Kilroy | Julie Olson & Neil Orkney | Barbara Tuneski |
| Anonymous (10) | Lynn & Waldo Klein | Cynthia R. Palmer | Susan & Humphrey Tyler |
| Spyros Barres | Henry Krisch | Donna & William Pedace | Alix & Cornelius Van Rees |
| Debbie & Tim Bates | Mary & John LaMattina | Joann Szytga Pillar | Sidney & Sandy Van Zandt |
| Laura Berry & Bernard Hulin | Jane Lassen-Bobruff & Neal Bobruff | Mary & Richard Place | Mary Waldron |
| Francene & Daniel Blackmore | Jean & John Lenard | Barbara & David Preston | Caroline Walters |
| Siegmar R. Blamberg | Denise & Steven* Lewis | Lee & John Pritchard | Walter C. Watson & Charles Sotir |
| Lynn Bloom | Julia & Carl Lindquist | Dyanne & John Rafal | Liz & Harry White |
| Wayne Boettner | Kathryn Lord | Elizabeth Anne & Lawrence Reiter | Nancy & G. W. Blunt White II |
| Judith Bossey | Jill Wardman Lucas | Betty Richards | Karin Whittemore & Peter Kepple |
| Faith & Rheo Brouillard | Lisa Lyman | Barbara Sahagan | Cynthia & George Willauer |
| Robert Burnside | Nicole & Aaron McGarry | Carol & Edward Sauers | Amy Willcox & Del Knight |
| Joan Butler | Lisa & Morgan McGinley | Ann Louise & Michael Shapiro | Carol Williams & Robert Asher |
| Laurel Butler & Christopher Daniels | Jill & Richard Mehlman | Elaine & Michael Shapiro | Cathy Zall |
| Beth & Garon Camassar | Eva & Govind Menon | Jane & Peter Shea | |
| Ronald Campo, Jr. | William J. Miller | Nissa Simon & J. Melvin Woody | * Deceased |
| Maura Casey | Laura & Scott Moorehead | Barbara & Bruce Skinner | |
| Laurie Chipperfield | | Diane & Stephen Smith | |
| Charles T. Clark | | | |
| Anne & Carl Clement | | | |
| Betty R. Fletcher* & James Comer | | | |
| Rosemary Contin & John Malmros | | | |
| Cecile & Art* Costa | | | |
| Nancy Costa | | | |
| Mary Cuthbert | | | |
| Kathleen & Richard Daniele | | | |
| Sally D’Aquila | | | |
| Anne B. Davis | | | |
| Mildred Devine | | | |
| David Dresback | | | |
| Caroline Driscoll | | | |
| Bethe & Marcel Dufresne | | | |
| Maryam Elahi | | | |
| Josephine & Fred Falkner | | | |
| Alice Fitzpatrick | | | |
| Michelle Fontaine-Calkins | | | |
| Graham Gavert | | | |
| Lois & Robert Geary | | | |
| Katharine & Richard Gildersleeve | | | |
| Charles Glassenberg | | | |
| Janet & James F. Grant | | | |
| Nancy & Andrew Grant | | | |
| Lorraine Grey | | | |
| Sandra & Stanton Hale | | | |
| Nancy Heart | | | |



Connecticut Audubon Society received a grant for the Science in Nature program in New London County Schools.

Donors Creating Better Futures

In 2023, the Community Foundation received over 1,200 donations from individuals and organizations who gave more than \$10.3 million in support of causes that matter to them and to the well-being of Eastern Connecticut residents. We are so grateful for their generosity.

\$1,000,000 and above

Anonymous (1)
Estate of Joan D. Hauptfeld
Alva Greenberg
State of Connecticut – CT
Cannabis Social Equity Council

\$500,000-\$999,999

Anonymous (2)
Estate of Ruth M. Tombari

\$100,000-\$499,999

Anonymous (3)
Estate of Suzanne Maxcy Wall
Edward and Mary Lord Foundation

\$25,000-\$99,999

Anonymous (4)
Bonnie & Anthony Cascio
Janet & Roland DePratti
Estate of John P. Quinn
Sandra & Stanton Hale
Helios Foundation
Hispanic Alliance of SECT
Kitchings Family Foundation
Lin & Waldo Klein
Mary & John LaMattina
Lisbon Central School –
Board of Education
Pam & Frank Maletz
William and Gladys Murdock Fund
Gordon Murphy
Kathy & Ted Parker
Carolyn Patten
Joseph St. Martin

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (3)
Claire & Anthony Alessi
Barbara & Douglas Barrett
Sharon & Richard Beebe
Ruth Buczynski/The National
Institute for the Clinical Application
of Behavioral Medicine
Connecticut Network for Children
and Youth
Rebecca & Frederick Crosby
Leslie Curtis
Catherine & Elwood Davis
David Dresback
East Lyme Aquatic & Fitness
Center Foundation
Eastford Historical Society
Estate of Diana Atwood Johnson
Christopher Freeman
Martha Gibson
Corinne & David* Good
Patricia Hendel
Susan Graham & Stephen Larcen
Curly & William Lieber
Lisa Lyman
Montauk Foundation
Parish Hill Action
Community Team/PTA
Pfizer Inc.
Barbara Sahagan
Paul Sellier
Shearman Foundation
Paula & Todd Shepard
Joan & Douglas Smith

Sword in the Scroll Fencing
Academy
The GDL Foundation/
Northeast Financial
The Hillery Company
Town of Old Lyme
Liz & Harry White
William Caspar Graustein
Memorial Fund
Elizabeth Zimmerman Smith

\$5,000-\$9,999

Blue Hill Farm
Connecticut Educator's Computer
Association
Mimi & Gaston Daumy
Donald R. Henne Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Maryam Elahi
Elizabeth & Anthony Enders
Estate of Margaret Machnicki
Estate of Jane G. W. Parker
Josephine & Fred Falkner
Tiffany Flowers
Susan & Alan Gardiner
Alan Gauvain
Robert Gregg Gauvain
Katharine & Richard Gildersleeve
Barbara Holland
Lori Kolar &
Michael Hutchins Kolar
Carol Lahan
Ledyard Rotary Foundation
Friends of Ricky Martin
Anne McDermott

Laura & Scott Moorehead
Nelly Murstein
Sally & Robert Myers
New London Firefighters
Local 1522/Dr. Carl Wies
Scholarship Fund
Margaret & Daniel O'Shea
Project Oceanology
Kenneth Przybysz
Roslyn Milstein Meyer and
Jerome Meyer Foundation
Karen Stone & David Schulz
Jane & Peter Shea
Anne-Marie Smatlak
Friends of Daniel Steward
The Brownington Foundation
Town of Waterford –
Senior Citizens Commission
Veolia Water North America
Darlene & Mark Wagner
Cynthia & George Willauer
Carol Williams & Robert Asher

\$2,500-\$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Deepak Bhargava
Black Point Men's Club
Wayne Boettner
Joan Butler
John Cherrick
Colchester Land Trust
Rory Contin & John Malmros
Darrell Fox
Jack Guarnaccia*
Tom Latham
Kathryn Lord
Coralie & Gerhard Mueller
Margaret Pescatello
Portuguese Holy Ghost Society –
John E. Boyle, Jr. Memorial
Scholarship Fund
Cindy & Tom Praisner
Putnam Area Foundation
The Last Green Valley
Union School Association
Scholarship Fund
Linemaster Switch Corp.
M&T Bank
Linda & Reid MacCluggage
Lynn & Paul Malerba
Diane Manning

*A grant to Horizons for a
respite and camp program
for girls with disabilities.*

[photo provided by Horizons]

\$1,000-\$2,499

Lynne Farrington Allen
Maureen & Charles Anderson
David Benvenuti
Cathy & Steven Bokoff
Kathy & Thomas Borner
Anthony Bowe
Sherrod Brown
Elizabeth & Richard Bruckner
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Maura Casey
Castle Family Foundation
Kathryn Cellino
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union
Elsie & Samuel Childs
Connecticut Humanities
Kate & Kevin Conway
Christine & Bill Crawford
Kim Curtin
Louise Davidson
Mildred Devine
Abby & Bill Dolliver
Mary Drake
Donna & David Elks
Dorothy & Matthew Farrell
Nicholas Fortson
Ann & Paul Foye
Jennifer & Joel Friedman
Nancy & Robert Gentes
Barbara & Marc Ginsberg
Givinga Foundation
Earline & David Goebel
Gold Key Group of
William Raveis Real Estate/
Tina Lajoie
Robert Gorman
Lorraine Grey
Lisa & Kenneth Hageman
Leah Hartman
Susan Henne
Judith & Barrie Hesp
Pat Sloan Hunt & Trey Hunt
Kaitlin & Ben Johnson
Kathryn Johnson &
Thomas Scanlon
Marietta Johnson
Karen Katen
David King
Carol Klimek
Henry Krisch
David LaMarche
Gara LaMarche
Armand Lambert
Heather Lathrop-Williams &
Tim Williams
David Levine
Kevin Lewis
Steven Light



A grant to Eastern Connecticut Ballet supported the Nutcracker School Assembly Program for a live learning experience focusing on ballet, music and local history. [photo provided by Eastern CT Ballet]

Catherine Marrion
Margaret Martin & Joe Jackson
Barbara Montalto
Mullare Family Fund
Mystic Flag Committee
Richard Newton
Cecilia Otto
Prior Parker
Betty Pinson
Taeza & Michael Pittman
Evelyn & Larry Pontbriant
Gloria Pontious
Annette & Michael Rauh
Lise & Robert Reardon
Faye & J. Michael Richardson
Roddy & Chris Roosevelt
Rosy Walk
Barbara & Gerard Rucci
Connie Schultz
Scientific Alloys
Elaine & Michael Shapiro
Jeanne & Steve Sigel
Nancy & John Silander
Eunice & John Sutphen
Take Note!
Evelyn & Skip* Thavenet
The Black Sheep
The Jacques Cartier Club
Mary Waldron
Anne Wernau
Wheelabrator Technologies
Jacqueline & Joseph Woronecki

\$500-\$999

Anonymous (4)
Melissa & Dana Avery
Jerry Baggish
Christine & Bill Barnes
Keri & Marc Benvenuti

Anne Fix & Kevin Bowdler
Greg Carpenter
Barbara & Gary Casaly
Charles Clark
Marion Cohen
Allison Cone
Kathleen & Paul Connolly
Credit Unions Building
Financial Independence
Frances Deegan & Peter Zupczak
Friends of Bob Desjardins
Friends of Karen Desjardins
Mary & Robert DeLena
Susan & Harry Ferguson
Marjorie Fine
Delia & Richard Foye
Lois & Robert Geary
Leslie Gensburg
Myra & Richard Gipstein
Janet & James Grant
Gisela & David Harma
Hope & Evan Haynes
Peter Hewitt
Nancy Hileman
Elizabeth Hopkins
Jewett City Savings Bank
Ann & Bruce Lane
Ledyard Congregational Church/
Women's Fellowship
Mary Lenzi & M. Samuel Thomas
Catherine & Bruce Littman
Geraldine Mannion
Joanne Horvath Marcoux &
Stephen Marcoux
Joan Marshall
Angela & John McLean
McNeely Foundation
Pamela McNulty Hennessey &
William Hennessey

Teresa McShane
Lauren Middleton
Debby & John Murphy
Philip Newbury
Heidi & John Niblack
Janice & James Norton
Georganne Onaitis
Nancy & Bob Peavy
Sarah Rogovin & Mark Twiss
Charles Schuman
Mary & Adam Seidner
Alicia & Thomas Settle
Marian Shilstone
Kimberly Armstrong Silcox &
Dane Silcox
Beverly Sims & William Okeson
Gerald Smith, Jr.
Jean & Brian Smith
Donna & John Snell
Linda Stankewich
State of Connecticut – Dept. of
Correction/Brooklyn Cares
Sultan & Ann Ahamed Family
Foundation
Susanna Thomas
Joanne & Jeffrey Todd
Amy Yenkin & Robert Usdan
Veronica & Paul Vaida
Mary & Tim Weinland
Karin Whittemore & Peter Kepple
Audrey & Peter Wolcott
Barbara Zabel & G. Thomas Couser

* Deceased

*We are deeply grateful for all gifts!
Due to space constraints, you can
find 2023 gifts of under \$500
at cfect.org/CurrentDonors*



New Funds: Lasting Gifts to Our Communities

Thank you to the caring and generous donors who created these funds at the Community Foundation in 2023.

Donor Advised

Florence E. Baldwin Family Fund
 Dakota Noel Bartlett Memorial Scholarship Fund II
 Dorcas B. "Ducky" Freeman Fund
 Joan D. Hauptfeld Education Fund
 Shepard Family Fund

Designated

Dakota Noel Bartlett Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Joan D. Hauptfeld Fund
 Lisa M. Lyman Fund
 Margaret Ann Machnicki Fund

Field of Interest

Brighter Futures Fund
 Connecticut Cannabis Social Equity Council Fund
 Fund for Racial Justice
 Nancy Heart Fund
 Donald R. Henne Memorial Scholarship Fund
 Mollymawk Fund for the Arts

Scholarship

Anonymous
 Jody Capen Memorial Scholarship
 Ethel L. Ducharme Scholarship Fund
 Rosetta E. Jones Scholarship Fund
 William and Gladys Murdock Fund
 D. Howard "Mickey" Weiss Scholarship Fund

NPO Endowment

East Lyme Aquatic & Fitness Center Foundation Fund
 Eastford Historical Society Fund



Stewarding Your Funds

We are committed to stewarding the charitable funds entrusted to us by our donors to get as many dollars as possible out to the causes, nonprofits and communities they care about.

Our Investment Committee consists of current and former board members with institutional investment experience and varied perspectives. With oversight by our board, the committee is responsible for developing and implementing our investment policy, recommending investment managers, and monitoring investment performance.

Toward our goal of aligning our mission with an investment model that maximizes philanthropic impact and advances equity, the Foundation works with Boston Trust Walden (BTW) to preserve and grow our endowment through prudent investment strategies in a well-diversified portfolio. BTW is a longtime specialist in actively applying Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) screens to investment portfolios to encourage companies to act responsibly.

Our three-pronged asset-allocation approach centers on growth, risk reduction and inflation protection. As we continue to bring an equity and justice lens to our work, we also continue to explore ways to align our investments with positive community impact. The investment portfolio is designed to minimize or exclude exposure to tobacco-related products, fossil fuels, gun manufacturers or distributors, and private prisons.

CliftonLarsenAllen LLP (CLAconnect.com) conducts our audit. The financial statements are available on our website at cfct.org/About/Publications.

Brown Brothers Harriman Portfolio*

Year	Investment Performance (net of fees)
2023	17.7%
2022	-15.6%
2021	7.7%

3-yr average return: 2.5%
 Return since inception (2009): 7.7%

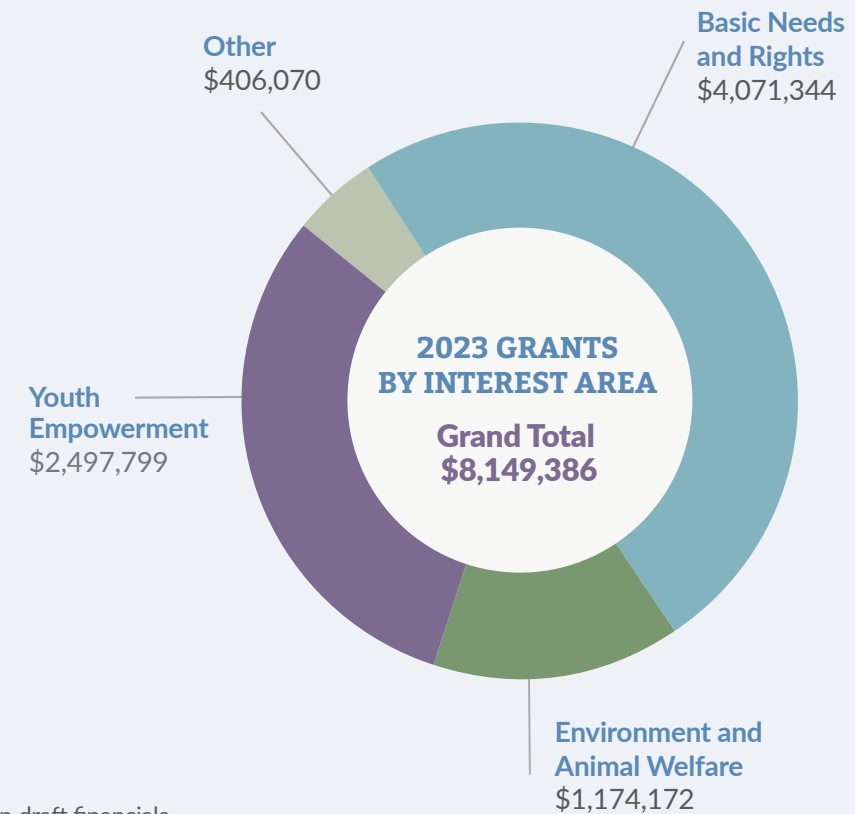
Boston Trust Walden Company Portfolio

Year	Investment Performance (net of fees)
2023	12.98%
2022	-14.12%
2021	16.9%

3-yr average return: 1.9%
 Return since inception (2016): 7.9%

**In 2023, the Community Foundation moved the majority of its assets managed by Brown Brothers Harriman to Boston Trust Walden.*

Investing in Your Community*



*Based on draft financials.



Community Foundation
of Eastern Connecticut

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New London, CT
Permit 101

68 Federal Street
New London, CT 06320

cfect.org

CONTACT US

860-442-3572

admin@cfect.org

Sign up for our e-news at cfect.org and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.

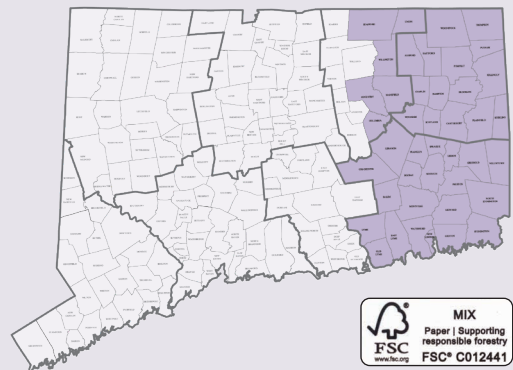
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report is dedicated to the early Community Foundation Trustees and to the generous donors who created charitable funds and a legacy of caring for their neighbors.



Serving 42 towns in New London, Windham and Tolland Counties:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------------|------------|
| Ashford | Griswold | North Stonington | Sterling |
| Bozrah | Groton | Norwich | Stonington |
| Brooklyn | Hampton | Old Lyme | Thompson |
| Canterbury | Killingly | Plainfield | Union |
| Chaplin | Lebanon | Pomfret | Voluntown |
| Colchester | Ledyard | Preston | Waterford |
| Columbia | Lisbon | Putnam | Willington |
| Coventry | Lyme | Salem | Windham |
| Eastford | Mansfield | Scotland | Woodstock |
| East Lyme | Montville | Sprague | |
| Franklin | New London | Stafford | |



The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut is accredited by the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations for its commitment to legal compliance, philanthropic best practices and excellence that benefit communities.